

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 /102 W

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R 081438Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9535

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 4082

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN EXPLANATION FOR UN VOTES AND "PEACE OFFENSIVE"

1. DURING CONVERSTATION DEC 8 WITH MFA DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AMBASSADOR MAHMUD ABU NASR (WHO ATTENDED 31ST UNGA) TO REVIEW UN AND UNESCO ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF EMBASSY DEMARCHES DURING HIS ABSENCE, POLCOUNS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER EGYPTIAN VOTE ON GUAM, MADE DEMARCHE AGAINST FINANCING OF UN MEETINGS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (SEPTEL) AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE WITH GOE ABSTENTION ON ENMOD TREATY IN VIEW OF FACT LARGE MAJORITY IN FAVOR INCLUDED YUGOSLAVIA, ALGERIA, NIGERIA, INDIA AND OTHER ARAB STATES. IN RESPONSE ABU NASR MADE POINT THAT NONE OF THESE THREE SUBJECTS HAD COME UP DURING PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MFA. HE URGED THAT IN FUTURE SUCH MATTERS BE DISCUSSED WELL IN ADVANCE AND PERHAPS LANGUAGE CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO ENABLE MODIFICATION OF RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. ON GUAM RESOLUTION HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT TO HAVE ABSTAINED SINCE IT WAS CO-SPONSOR AT 30TH UNGA, HOWEVER FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCH (CAIRO 16671), FONMIN FAHMY HAD SERIOUSLY WANTED TO DO SOMETHINB BUT ABU NASR CLAIMED IT WAS BY THEN TOO LATE.

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2. POLCOUNS MADE GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT FLURRY OF ANTI-ISRAELI AND OTHER ME RESOLUTIONS AT UNESCO CONFERENCE AND UNGA COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF SEEMING TO PRESS TOO HARD ON NEW US ADMINISTRATION. ABU NASR RECOGNIZED VALIDITY OF THIS OBSERVATION, BUT URGED THAT US UNDERSTAND THAT EGYPT IS FACING VARIETY OF PRESSURES WHICH IT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. HE CITED DOMESTIC PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY FROM STUDENTS, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT MOVEMENT IS TAKING PLACE TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF SADAT'S PEACE STRATEGY INAUGURATED THREE YEARS AGO. SECONDLY, THERE ARE MOUNTING PRESSURES FROM WITHIN ARAB WORLD AND IF EGYPT DOES NOT MAINTAIN ITS LEADING ROLE IT WILL BE SEIZED BY OTHER, PROBABLY LESS RESPONSIBLE, STATES. FINALLY, ABU NASR SAID, "AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", PARTICULARLY SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK AND IN SINAI AND EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN SINAI, FORCED EGYPT TO CONSTANTLY PUT SPOTLIGHT ON THEM IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO ACQUIESCE IN WHAT GOE CONSIDERS NOT ONLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BUT MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO FUTURE SETTLEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO16915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0138
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabzbz.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN EXPLANATION FOR UN VOTES AND "PEACE OFFENSIVE"
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006